

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: September 26, 1987

Region II  
Response and Prevention Branch  
Edison, New Jersey 08837

(201) 548-8730 - Commercial & FTS  
24 Hour Emergency

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TAT

POLREP NO.: Ten (10)  
INCIDENT/SITE NO.: Arkansas Chemical Company/T9  
POLLUTANT: Textile chemicals and intermediates  
CLASSIFICATION: Major  
SOURCE: Abandoned chemical facility  
LOCATION: Newark, New Jersey  
AMOUNT: 15,000 containers of various chemicals,  
800-1200 drums, 5-10 mixing tanks/outdoor  
tanks containing unknown chemicals  
WATER BODY: None

1. SITUATION

- A. The Arkansas Chemical Company produced textile and other specialty chemicals at its Newark facility until it was abandoned in 1983. Abandoned on this site are a two-story office/laboratory building (Bldgs. 25/30), a machine shop (Bldg. 26), a small chemical processing building (Bldg. 27), a large four-story chemical process building (Bldg. 28), a boiler room/tank houses (Bldgs. 16 & 16B), storage building (Bldg. 24), and two sheds. About 800-1200 drums and 15,000 small containers of chemicals exist in the buildings on-site. In addition, there are approximately 17 aboveground storage tanks and 70 process tanks and vessels containing unknown quantities of materials.



- B. There are approximately fifty 55-gallon drums of benzyl chloride (corrosive, poisonous) located in Bldg. 28B that are in various stages of deterioration. Several of the drums are bulging.

## 2. ACTION TAKEN:

- A. Temporary lighting has been installed in building 28 (1st and 2nd floor).
- B. Contents of all deteriorated drums have been transferred into overpacked drums.
- C. Full drums on the first and second floor of building 28B have been staged.
- D. Sampling and documentation of staged drum on the first floor of building 28/28B was initiated on September 24, 1987. To date, ERCS has sampled 198 drums.
- E. Three transportation and disposal (T&D) firms have submitted bids for the lab packing operations. These bids are currently under review.
- F. The mobile laboratory unit arrived on site September 23, 1987. It will be operational on September 26, 1987, and will be used to analyze the contents of the staged drums.
- G. The elevator in building 28 must have the safety guideline and the main support cable replaced. This operation will take place as soon as replacement parts become available.
- H. The fourth and final tour of the site grounds was held on September 25, 1987 for the Newark Fire Department (NFD). Upon request of the NFD, an inventory of all identified wastes on-site will be posted in the security trailer.

## 3. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. ERCS' Health and Safety Officer will continue air monitoring and sampling.
- B. Maloney Site Control continues to provide 24 hour site security.
- C. Scraping/drumming of waste from the floors of Building 28 floors will continue.
- D. Sampling of process tanks will be performed in conjunction with the drum sampling program.
- E. ERCS will finalize details of lab packing bid acceptance with potential subcontractor.

